

The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29.

The Next House.

Estimates indicate a Democratic Majority of Eighteen.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—Three weeks hence the voters of the United States will pass in judgment upon the Harrison administration and the record of the Fifty-first Congress at its first session. The Congressional policy of Speaker Reed, the economic policy of Major McKinley and the Lodge force bill are each of them distinctive features of the Republican policy and are to be approved or condemned at the polls by the American people.

Of all the issues which will tend to shape the result, the new tariff law is likely to prove the most potent factor in determining it. Because its effects are so far-reaching and it comes home to every individual consumer in the land. While President Harrison was elected on the protective tariff issues by a minority in the electoral college, the Republican leaders never intimated that they proposed to go to the lengths of the measure that has just become a law.

The bill has been passed despite the protests of a large and important element of the population. Already its effects are being felt. Prices are slowly but steadily going up on articles of almost universal consumption. On the other hand wages have not acted in sympathy with prices. The home industries, which are expected to receive such an impetus by reason of the new tariff, cannot experience it until the large stock of foreign goods which has been laid in becomes exhausted.

The effect of all this must operate to the detriment of the Republicans, and nowhere more than in the agricultural States of the West, where the farming interests are greatly depressed. Senator Paddock of Nebraska, Pettigrew of South Dakota and Plumb of Kansas realized this fully when they voted against the McKinley bill on its final passage, and in doing so they represented the views of their constituents. The absence of harsh criticism of their votes in the columns of the Republican papers in those States proves this incontrovertibly.

The force bill has had the effect of turning up the Southern Democrats to a supreme effort and very few Republicans will sit in the next Congress from that section. So strong is the feeling on the subject that Mr. McComas, who has been repeatedly elected to represent the Sixth District of Maryland as a Republican, is thought this year to be in danger of defeat. The same thing will apply to Congressman Brower of North Carolina, who has twice been elected as a Republican. No efforts will be spared by the Democrats in the South to carry every district possible and an increased Democratic representation may be expected.

In this connection it is advisable to touch on a movement which is attracting widespread attention and which is expected to play an important part in the future politics of the country. I refer to the Farmers' Alliance. The Republicans are laying the flattering unction to their souls that through this wedge they will be able to break up the solid South and perhaps prevent the Democrats from organizing the next House. In this they are likely to be badly deceived.

True, in many districts in the South, alliance men have defeated Democratic veterans for the nomination. This happened in six of the ten Georgia districts. But it was merely a primary contest, and the nominees are running as Democrats and with the understanding that they will participate in the Democratic caucus. They well know that to prove recreant to this pledge would doom them to future political oblivion. The Southern Alliance Democrats will stand by their party.

But in the Western States the Republicans are trying to utilize the alliance and with some success. In several States, in close and doubtful districts, they have induced alliance candidates, or have secured the nomination of alliance candidates who had been lifelong Republicans. This is notably the case in the Eighteenth Illinois District, where the President of the Farmers' Alliance of that State is the Republican candidate for Congress.

This coquetting of the Republicans with the alliance men may lose a few districts to the Democrats, but only very few, for most of the Western States are Republican and have been carefully gerrymandered in the Republican interest, and where there is a Democratic district it is usually largely Democratic. The Ohio Democrats have adopted the system this year and propose to try it, and great is the wailing and gnashing of teeth among the followers of the grand old party at what they are pleased to term the "infamous Democratic gerrymander."

The following figures will show the situation at a glance: First we will take the South. In the present Congress from that section the Democrats have 104 members and the Republicans 17; in the next Congress the Democrats will have 107 and the Republicans 3; being a gain of 3 for the Democrats in the South. In 1888 the Democrats lost one of the Baltimore districts by a bare majority. Stockbridge, Republican, defeating Raynor, Democrat, by 80 votes. Mr. Raynor is again a candidate and will surely be elected. The Fifth district of Maryland, carried by Campion, Democrat, by 121 votes in 1888 (he was afterward unseated), has been strengthened by the addition of a Democratic ward of Baltimore. While the Democrats are body contesting the Sixth district, McComas, Republican, stand to win. In Virginia Professor Langston is likely this year to carry the Petersburg district on his merits, but there are two Republican candidates in the Norfolk district and the division of the vote is likely to result in the return of a Democrat.

In North Carolina the Democrats have a good prospect of regaining either the Fifth or Ninth district. Brower, Republican, carried the former in 1888 by only 675 votes and Ewart the latter by 518. The vote in both districts was a full one. Cheatham the only original colored member of the House, carried the Second district by but 653, but his district is Republican.

The Second district of Louisiana, part of the city of New Orleans, was carried by Coleman, Republican, in 1888, by 174 majority. It was entirely due to Democratic dissension and the district this year will go heavily Democratic.

In Kentucky the Legislature has redistricted the State and all the strong Republican counties have been massed in one district. This assures a gain of one member to the Democrats.

The Legislature of Tennessee has also redistricted that State and the Third, or Chattanooga district, which returned a Republican in 1888 by 288 majority, had a thousand more Democratic voters put into it.

The Republicans elected four members to the present Congress from Missouri. Three of them were from St. Louis districts heretofore represented by Democrats. It is safe to assume that at least one of them will be re-elected.

Four Democrats were returned from West Virginia in 1888 by small majorities, two of whom have since been unseated. It is fair to divide the delegation equally between the parties at the coming election, considering how close the State is.

In Arkansas the Republicans are likely to gain a member. They had none at the opening of the present Congress, but unseated two Democrats. So the result of the estimate shows a net loss to the Republicans of three and a net gain to the Democrats of three in sixteen Southern States.

In the Eastern States the Democrats now have 28 Congressmen, while the Republicans have 67. It is expected in the approaching election that the figures will stand about as follows: Democrats 31, Republicans 64, being a gain of 3 members for the Democrats. Maine has already voted and elected four Republicans. In New Hampshire the Democrats have a fair prospect of electing one member, as they have also in Rhode Island, but both are conceded to the Republicans in the estimate. In Massachusetts only the two Boston districts are put down as Democratic, though the Democrats have hopes of others. The delegation is left unchanged.

In Connecticut a gain of one district can be safely claimed by the Democrats. In several Congresses they have had three members. The Republicans carried the first third and fourth districts in 1888 by 813, 748 and 26 majority respectively. In New York the Democrats are conceded a gain of one district. They lost the Fifteenth District in 1888 by 74 votes. In the Buffalo district John M. Farquhar has been left out in the cold, and against the present Republican nominee Mr. Dan Lockwood, the Democrat, can win. In the Thirty-third the Republicans are as badly divided as in 1888, when John Wiley carried the district by 564. Many believe that the Republicans will lose the Rochester district, owing to the unpopularity of their nominee, Dan Voorhis. Mr. Greenleaf, the Democratic candidate, beat him several years ago.

In New Jersey the Democrats are sure of the three districts they now hold, and are likely to capture the Newark district.

In Pennsylvania the bolt against Delamater, Senator Quay's candidate for Governor, is likely to affect the close districts, and in one of them, the Twenty-fifth, two Republicans are in the field, so that a Democratic gain of one is not an unreasonable claim.

From this section, including New England and New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, a Democratic gain of three and a Republican loss of three is claimed to be the probable result. Lastly, the Western section of the country, embracing the nineteen remaining States. Six of these—North and South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Wyoming and Idaho—did not vote in 1888, though the first four did in 1889 and their Representatives participated in the organization of the present House.

In this section a gain for the Democrats of eight members can be confidently expected, and a corresponding loss by the Republicans, and when the test of political probabilities is applied to this claim it will be readily seen that it is a conservative one.

In Ohio a Democratic gain of seven members is a very conservative claim. In the present Congress there are but five Democrats from Ohio to sixteen Republicans. The "infamous" gerrymander which produced this result has been duplicated by the recent Democratic Legislature, with the shoe on the other foot, and fifteen districts have been constructed with Democratic majorities ranging from six hundred to three thousand. Six districts were made heavily Republican. In some of the districts the Democratic majority is small, notably in the Sixth, Eighth and Thirteenth, where it does not exceed 1,000, and so these districts are conceded to the Republicans in the estimate. Moreover, the Republicans themselves concede eleven districts to the Democrats, and say that if they can keep the Democrats down to that figure they will have won a great Republican victory.

In 1888 the Indiana Democrats carried ten of the thirteen Congressional districts. Six of them, however, were carried by less than 750 plurality, four of them by less than 500, and two of them by less than 100 plurality, the First District by 20 votes and the Eighth by 69. It is well known that the Republican managers sacrificed everything to secure the electoral vote of the State for Harrison. It is therefore safe to assume that the Republicans will gain two districts this year, and they are accorded that in the estimate.

In Michigan a gain of one is assured to the Democrats. In 1888 they lost the Sixth District by only 367, and the Tenth, or Bay City District, by only 115, and in the latter the Republicans put forward their strongest candidate, who is not in the field this year. In Wisconsin the only gain claimed for the Democrats is the Milwaukee district. That city elected a Democratic mayor this spring by over 6,000 majority, and on an issue which is the issue in this campaign. While the Democrats have nominated the millionaire John Mitchell as their candidate, the present Republican member, Van Schaick, who has never met defeat, would not consent to run again. He dropped out once before when Democratic success was assured. In Iowa a gain of one is claimed from the Republicans. Last year Governor Boies carried five of the eleven districts in the State. Certainly one of these should elect a Democrat this year. The Iowa district, now held by the Democrats, and the two held by them in Wisconsin are largely Democratic and safe.

The above are the only Western States in which any Democratic gains are claimed, though there is a good prospect of defeating the Republican candidates in both the first and fourth California districts, now represented in Congress by Republicans.

The estimate is intended to be conservative, and gives to the Republicans everything they can possibly hope to carry.

To sum up, the Republicans cannot hope to secure more than fourteen members in the South, sixty-four in the East and seventy-nine in the West, and to secure this representation they are accorded nearly every doubtful district. The representation will then stand nearly as follows:

	Republicans.	Democrats.
East	64	31
West	79	37
South	14	107
Total	157	175

Democratic majority at lowest calculation—18.

Arrests of Democrats in Hampton.

The outrage will have begun to grind in South Carolina. In Hampton county Messrs. M. B. McSwain, W. J. Cansey, J. O. Sanders, and Rev. W. H. Dowling have been arrested upon a warrant issued by United States Commissioner Morgan upon the affidavit of Chairman Riley, of the Republican party in Hampton County, "for refusing to discharge their duty as officers under the State laws." The arrests have been, it is said, in the interest of S. E. Smith, the Republican candidate for Congress in the 2d district. It is alleged that Col. McSwain refused to issue a large number of registration tickets to negroes upon the demand of Riley, who presented a carpet-bag full of affidavits by mythical persons claiming the right to be registered, and that the other persons named in the warrant of arrest refused to administer oaths to the negroes desiring to make affidavits that they had lost their registration certificates.

The Post Office Department and those who urge the establishment of a postal telegraph favor the Essick printing telegraph instrument, a machine of recent invention, which combines the principles of telephone, telegraph, stock ticker and typewriter. An interesting exhibition of its operation was given a few days ago at Providence. Messages are received in type-written form, without the intervention of an operator, the instrument working automatically. They are sent from a little key-board, and a type-written sheet passes up before the operator, so that he is enabled to detect and correct any mistake that may occur. Messages by this system can be transmitted over long lines of five hundred or one thousand miles, and, with one transmission, the same news simultaneously produced at an unlimited number of stations. A company has been incorporated, and nearly one hundred miles of line constructed between New York and Boston.

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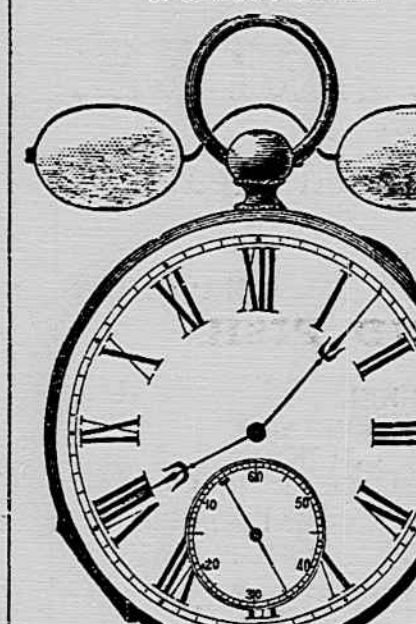
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